

Agenda Item #3a

Items from Imagine Austin relating to the plan principles of “natural and sustainable”

From the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan's* Vision Statement (P. 85)

Austin is Natural and Sustainable

Austin is a green city. We are environmentally aware and ensure the long-term health and quality of our community through responsible resource use as citizens at the local, regional, and global level. Growth and infrastructure systems are well-managed to respect the limitations of our natural resources.

- We enjoy an accessible, well-maintained network of parks throughout our city.
- We protect the beauty of the Colorado River watershed, Hill Country, and Blackland Prairie and value our farmland, critical to local food production.
- Our open spaces and preserves shape city planning, reduce infrastructure costs, and provide us with recreation, clean air and water, local food, cooler temperatures, and biodiversity.
- We conserve water, energy, soil, and other valuable resources.
- Austin is a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- We use and inspire new technologies that create more sustainable communities, while reducing our dependence on environmentally costly practices.

We Will Become a City of Complete Communities (P. 88)

- Sustainable, Compact, and Walkable
- Development
- Resource Conservation/Efficiency
- Extensive Green Infrastructure

Natural and Sustainable Indicators (P. 225)

- Developed land (square miles)
- Mixed-use development (percent)
Impervious cover (percent per capita and total)
- Parks and open space (acres or acres per capita)
- Water consumption (total water use and per capita residential)
- Water quality
- Air quality (nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds)
- Greenhouse gas emissions (by sector)
- Energy generation, percent of renewables
- Development within the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zones (square miles)
- Development within the 100-year floodplain (square miles)
- Households within ½ mile distance of park or accessible open space (percent)Crea

Appendix E. Framework for Decision-Making (P. A-57)

As potential capital improvement projects, budget priorities, bond packages, programs, regulatory changes, initiatives, plans, and even zoning cases are considered, it is important for the City of Austin to have a clear and objective framework for decision-making.

The following checklist is intended to be used to extend and refine the Imagine Austin vision, making it easier to use for departmental decision-making. The checklist can also be used by other organizations seeking funding to guide the development of their projects and programs to increase the likelihood of funding. As part of the comprehensive plan's annual review, changes may be made to the checklist as conditions and priorities change.

Natural and Sustainable

- The proposal adds to or enhances the City of Austin's green infrastructure system.
- The proposal reduces water or energy demands, uses or generates alternative energy, or provides alternative transportation options.
- The proposal results in compact and walkable places, use of public transit, infill development, or reuse of previously developed sites.